

Minutes of Special and Regular Meeting of Tuesday, March 24, 2015

One Twin Pines Lane, City Council Chambers, Belmont, California and Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, 2901 Osceola Parkway Blvd., Orlando, FL 32821 (teleconference location of Councilmember Lieberman)

STUDY SESSION – JOINT MEETING WITH PLANNING COMMISSION CALL TO ORDER 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Reed, Wright, Stone, Lieberman (via Skype), Braunstein

Councilmembers Absent: None

Planning Commissioners Present: Hurt, McCune, McDonald, Goldfarb, Mates, Kim

Planning Commissioners Absent: Simpson

General Plan 2035 Update, including: 1) Overview of purpose and process; 2) What we've learned -- technical background/community input; Key issue brainstorming; and 4) What's next

Community Development Director de Melo provided a brief background of selection of the consultant and the efforts that have been completed to date.

Sophie Martin, Consultant, provided an overview of the process of updating the general plan. She described the purpose of a general plan and the value of updating it from time to time. She outlined the schedule for the update. She reviewed the city's neighborhoods, land uses, current projects, historic resources, potential development opportunities, mobility issues, access to parks, and natural hazards. She described public outreach efforts, workshops held, and stakeholder interviews, and she summarized the information that came out of those efforts.

Alan Sarver, Belmont resident, stated that he has attended workshops, and he expressed support for the current effort. He suggested focusing on the downtown area.

Karin Hold, Belmont resident, pointed out that the majority of those attending the workshops supported status quo in the residential neighborhoods. She outlined areas that should be addressed in the update.

Shaunda Scruggs, Belmont resident and Director for the San Mateo County Tobacco Education Program, suggested that e-cigarettes be addressed in future planning.

Planning Commissioner MacDonald expressed support for the process. She requested information regarding opportunities for future public input.

Consultant described the recent survey that was just mailed to all households. She noted that the Planning Commission will be holding additional meetings and an open house will be scheduled for the public regarding land use details.

Planning Commissioner McCune commented regarding the role of planning versus economic development. He pointed out that the City of Belmont's budget is primarily dependent on single family home property tax. He suggested that the City look at reinvigorating the commercial areas to provide better revenue sources.

Planning Commission Chair Kim noted that worthwhile goals have been outlined through the process to date. He cited the goal of protection of residential neighborhoods, which leaves few areas available for future development. He noted the need for information regarding tradeoffs for various options, including doing nothing.

Planning Commissioner Hurt cited the need for disciplined growth, improving streetscapes for neighborhoods, integrate efficiency, including for energy, and integrating historic resources. She suggested pursuing incorporating the HIA (Harbor Industrial Area) for mixed use or village uptown. She pointed out that wireless facilities could be incorporated into the public facilities element. She would like information regarding the current tree canopy condition.

Planning Commissioner Goldfarb cited her desire to preserve, maintain and improve neighborhoods. She would like to pursue green initiatives and address wireless facilities. She also noted the need to address infrastructure and the utilization of current public facilities.

Planning Commissioner Mates stated that when planning the Belmont Village area, there is no need for redundancy or to compete with other areas such as Carlmont Village. She noted that historic preservation is important.

Councilmember Lieberman stated that the Planning Commission has provided good feedback and that Belmont is an interactive city. He noted that the neighborhoods are more active than other cities, and that the General Plan should build on this. He would like to make it easier for interactivity.

Councilmember Reed stated that people move to Belmont for its schools, natural beauty, and location. He pointed out that the region is experiencing unprecedented growth, and there is a need to figure out how to absorb this growth while keeping city's character intact. He recommended developing near the transit corridor.

Councilmember Wright stated that residential neighborhoods should stay residential, and that the Carlmont Village and Barrett Community Center should be looked at to provide opportunities for youth. She noted that the HIA area is underutilized. She would like to engage the college community and become a college-friendly town.

Councilmember Stone expressed a desire to keep the residential areas residential, and he supports easing restrictions for improving homes. He would like to focus on sustainability such as electric charging stations and an electric car infrastructure.

Mayor Braunstein expressed a desire to focus on natural hazards such as fire safety. He noted that public safety is important.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 7:05 p.m.

Terri Cook
City Clerk

**REGULAR MEETING
CALL TO ORDER 7:15 P.M.**

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Reed, Wright, Stone, Lieberman (via Skype), Braunstein
Councilmembers Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Fifth Grader Raina Lahiri, her family, and Kevin McCarthy and Heather Co from the South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Fifth Grader Raina Lahiri from Cipriani Elementary School - America Recycles Day Poster Contest Winner

Heather Co, SBWMA, noted that Raina's poster was selected from over 200 submissions. Raina described how she came up with concept for the poster.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Birgit Merian, Belmont resident, expressed support for having a more robust public forum as part of the City Council's priorities discussion. She expressed support for considering wireless facilities in the General Plan update. She questioned why the zone text amendment changes are being pushed through before the General Plan update, and suggested breaking them down into components.

Jeffrey Spano, Belmont resident, expressed concerns regarding the LED lighting pilot program in residential neighborhoods.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Stone announced the upcoming health and wellness fair in Redwood City and the upcoming senior showcase in Belmont.

Mayor Braunstein noted his recent participation in the Mayor's Meals on Wheels delivery, the upcoming State of the City address, and the City-sponsored Egg Hunt.

COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Discussion ensued regarding details in the Workers Compensation claims as outlined in the Risk Management Report, as well as the data collection for the TJKM consultant's study for the

Bicycle and Pedestrian report.

ITEMS APPROVED ON CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of Special and Regular City Council Meeting of February 24, 2015, Special Meetings of February 25 and March 3, 2015 (Commission Interviews), and

Motion to receive Monthly Financial Reports - February

Motion to Receive the City of Belmont Risk Management FY 2014 Annual Report

Resolution 2015-035 accepting work and authorizing the issuance of a Notice of Completion to Casey Construction, Inc. for the Ralston Avenue and Harbor Boulevard Storm Pump Stations Lid Replacement Project, City Contract Number 2014-522, for a final contract cost of \$89,800

Resolution 2015-036 approving specifications, authorizing advertisement for bids, and award purchase contract(s) to the lowest responsible bidders for the acquisition of five new Police cars, one Community Service Officer truck, one Public Works truck and subsequent outfitting of required police equipment for a total amount not to exceed \$303,000

Resolution 2015-037 approving plans and specifications, authorizing advertisement for sealed bids, authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with the lowest responsible bidder for an amount not to exceed \$90,000 and approving a ten percent construction contingency for the Ralston Avenue Emergency Storm Drain Repair Project, City Contract Number 2015-531

Resolution 2015-038 authorizing a task order to TJKM Consultants for the development of a Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan in the amount of \$66,840 with a 10% contingency

Resolution 2015-039 accepting work and approving the Notice of Substantial Completion to Bay Area General Skill Construction for the Waterdog Lake Spillway Bridge, City Contract Number 2014-052 for a final contract cost of \$35,000

Resolution 2015-040 correcting the authorization language in Resolution 2015-010, dated February 10, 2015

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Stone, seconded the Councilmember Reed, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Amendments to Campaign Finance Regulations

City Clerk Cook outlined changes being proposed in the draft ordinance based on discussion and direction at the March 10 City Council meeting. City Attorney Rennie noted that some language was changed to better match State reporting requirements.

City Attorney Rennie provided additional information from a 1976 Supreme Court case to better define corruption and quid pro quo. He pointed out that the focus is to address the trading of votes for a campaign contribution.

Discussion ensued regarding independent expenditures on behalf of candidates. City Attorney Rennie clarified that the City Council cannot regulate expenditures by others.

Discussion ensued regarding loans to one's own campaign.

Timothy Strinden, Belmont resident, expressed his opposition to any change to the existing ordinance and suggested that the individual contribution amount could be reduced to \$100. He stated that campaigns could be run with less expenditure of funds.

Tran, Belmont resident, expressed concerns regarding the proposed changes. She recommended that businesses should not have a higher limit, and should not be allowed to contribute. She suggested maintaining the \$250 limit with no escalator clause.

Birgit Merian, Belmont resident, expressed her opposition to higher limits for businesses. She is not opposed to a small increase in individual contributions to \$350.

City Attorney Rennie noted that the purpose of contribution limits cannot be to level the playing field.

ACTION: Councilmember Stone made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Reed, to eliminate the third pre-election filing, and to raise the individual contributions to \$500.

Councilmember Lieberman stated he could support an increase in individual contributions \$350. Mayor Braunstein concurred.

Councilmember Stone described costs in running a campaign. He noted that outside groups can spend without limits. Increasing limits could be a disadvantage to incumbents, and meets goal of grass roots. He pointed out that no other city in San Mateo County prohibits business contributions.

Councilmember Wright noted that raising limits does not mean that everyone will give that larger sum. She stated that it provides opportunity to raise more money to cover costs and to fight PAC's (Political Action Committees).

Councilmember Reed pointed out that people contribute because they believe in positions of candidates, not for corruptive purposes.

ACTION: On the previous motion, approved on a vote of 4-1, Mayor Braunstein no.

Discussion ensued regarding business/organization contributions.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Reed, seconded by Councilmember Stone, and unanimously approved to set the limit for businesses and organizations at \$500, and to not include an escalator clause.

Discussion ensued regarding reducing the itemization requirement, currently set at \$100. There was no concurrence to change this level.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Reed, seconded by Councilmember Wright, and

unanimously approved to introduce the ordinance as amended (\$500 individual and business/organization contribution, no escalator clause), to set the second reading and adoption for April 14, 2015.

Housing Element Annual Progress Report (2014)

Community Development Director de Melo summarized contents of report. He outlined the number of housing units that were approved in 2014 and noted that action is required by the City Council to approve transmittal of the report to the State.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Wright, seconded by Councilmember Stone, and unanimously approved to transmit the 2014 Housing Element Annual Progress Report to the State of California.

Final Design and Planning Services for Davey Glen Park

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais described the park site and provided background of project. He outlined specifics of the site design and the criteria that was used to develop options for the play structure. He reviewed funding needs and next steps. He summarized the Parks and Recreation Commission's discussion.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Michaels outlined the commission's detailed discussion, and noted its support for the organic feel to the design of the play structure.

Brent Catton, Consultant, noted that the park was conceived and designed for play. He responded that future expansion would be possible. He described safety measures that would be accomplished through planting and fencing. He outlined how maintenance would be accomplished, and pointed out that the design provides for low maintenance needs.

Parks Recreation Director Gervais noted that ADA (Americans with Disability Act) requirements have led to increased costs.

City Manager Scoles noted that an amendment to the fiscal year 15 budget would be added to the resolution.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Stone, seconded by Councilmember Wright, Resolution 2015-041 approving the design and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for final design, engineering and construction specifications for Davey Glen Park in an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) was unanimously approved.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AND COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSIGNMENT UPDATES, AND STAFF ITEMS

Verbal report from Councilmembers on Intergovernmental (IGR) and Subcommittee Assignments

Councilmembers reported on their various intergovernmental assignments and updates.

Verbal report from City Manager

City Manager Scoles provided a brief update on the City Council's recent Priority workshop.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 9:20 p.m. (to closed session)

Terri Cook
City Clerk

CONVENE CLOSED SESSION, One Twin Pines Lane Suite 360

Councilmembers Present: Reed, Wright, Stone, Lieberman (via phone), Braunstein

Councilmembers Absent: None

CLOSED SESSION

- (1) Conference With Labor Negotiator (Government Code Section 54957.6)
Agency designated representative: Greg Scoles
Employee organizations: MMCEA & AFSCME
- (2) Conference With Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54957.6)
Agency designated representatives: Charles Stone and Warren Lieberman
Unrepresented Employees: City Manager, City Attorney

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 10:40 p.m.

Terri Cook
City Clerk